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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Partnership to Develop Leading Edge Training Program

As part of its strategic priority to build a more supportive workplace for its employees, the City of London is partnering with the London Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse (LCCEWA) to develop a new and innovative staff training program. This training program will reflect some of society's most important issues today - fostering healthy communities, through healthy workplaces, and addressing woman abuse and family violence.

"This partnership has grown out of our ongoing staff and community consultations on how we can make the City of London a great place to work," said Jeff Fielding, Chief Administrative Officer for the City. "The training reflects what staff have told us is their highest priority - building a more supportive workplace."

The training program is called 'Standing Together - Employees Caring for Employees'. The first two modules - 'Respect at Work' and 'Responding to Woman Abuse, Family Violence and Sexual Violence' - are being customized to supplement the City's existing training programs and are expected to be rolled out to all levels of staff starting in late 2007 and continuing until 2010.

"The LCCEWA is pleased that the City of London is making it a priority to address important issues like woman abuse," said Kate Wiggins, Chair of the LCCEWA Communications and Advocacy Sub-Committee. "This training will promote healthy workplaces and communities that are free of harassment, discrimination and abuse."

"This work is the culmination of years of work", said Megan Walker, member of the LCCEWA's Communications and Advocacy Sub-Committee. "This project has come about only because of the dedication and commitment of all the partners to create a more supportive workplace for City employees."

The increased focus on employees caring for employees, through cooperation, mutual empowerment, trust and mutual respect as well as awareness of how to respond to issues of woman abuse, family violence and sexual violence is in keeping with other major initiatives recently set up. The Mayor's Task Force to End Woman Abuse was launched in 2006 with a mandate to enhance the ability of business, labour, government and human service sectors to respond more effectively to issues of woman abuse.

The announcement of this community partnership to develop a new training program was made today as part of a general update on some of the supportive workplace initiatives taking place at the City of London. Other initiatives already completed or underway include a review of the City's human rights model, recruitment outreach and retention strategies to build a more diverse workforce and updates on the City's employee recognition and appreciation programs.